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Letter dated 28 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the text of the final report of the second meeting of the Defence and Security Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, held at Abuja on 27 and 28 December 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

SECOND MEETING OF THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMISSION

Abuja, 27 - 28 December, 2000

FINAL REPORT

Executive Secretariat
Abuja, December, 2000

1. The meeting of the Defence and Security Commission was convened in Abuja, Nigeria, on 27th and 28th December, 2000 to address the urgent security situation in the Mano River Union States and to determine the Concept of Operation to be undertaken by the ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) that would effectively address the security problems within those States.

2. The Chiefs of Defence Staff or their representatives of the following Member States attended the meeting :

   - Burkina Faso
   - Republic of The Gambia
   - Republic of Ghana
   - Republic of Guinea
   - Republic of Liberia
   - Republic of Mali
   - Republic of Niger
   - Federal Republic of Nigeria
   - Republic of Senegal
   - Republic of Sierra Leone
   - Togolese Republic

3. Representatives of UNAMSIL and the Organisation of African Unity were also in attendance.

4. A list of participants is attached as an annex to this report.

Adoption of Agenda

5. The following agenda was adopted :

I CLOSED-DOOR SESSION

i) Briefing on the Decision of the 24th Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.

ii) Report of the Independent Technical Investigation Committee on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

iii) Report of the Reconnaissance Team for the Deployment of ECOMOG Forces along the borders of Guinea and Liberia.

iv) Practical Modalities for the deployment of the Troops.

- Mandate
- Mission
- Size of Troops
- Deployment zone
- Type and N° of Logistics needed
- Deployment Plan
- N° of Troops to be contributed by each State.

v) Any other business.

Consideration and Adoption of Final Report.

II CLOSING SESSION

- Reading of Vote of Thanks
- Closing remarks by the Chairman
- Press Conference

OUTCOME OF DELIBERATIONS

Briefing on the Decision of the 24th Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government

6. The Executive Secretary of ECOWAS briefed the meeting about the decisions of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government taken at the 24th Summit of the Authority held in Bamako on 15th and 16th December, 2000. Of particular relevance to the meeting was the Authority decision relating to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone which was based on the reports and recommendations of the Ministerial level of the Mediation and Security Council, as well as the reports of the Reconnaissance Team of the ECOWAS Military Observer Mission and the Independent Technical Investigation Committee that had carried out reconnaissance and investigative missions respectively within the Mano River Union States. The Executive

Secretary informed the meeting that after in-depth discussions, the Authority prevailed on the Member States concerned to resolve on the following :

a) not to allow their national territories to be used by national or foreign armed individuals as a base for cross border attacks;

b) to disarm any irregular armed groups present in their territories;

c) within the context of a joint effort, to rebuild trust and restore peace and refrain from hostile acts and utterances that may incite hostility.

7. The meeting was informed that the Authority at the Summit undertook to effect immediate deployment of interposition forces along the borders of the three countries, also recommending an immediate meeting of the Heads of State of the three countries under the auspices of ECOWAS and OAU.

8. Also presenting a memorandum on the subject of deployment of an ECOWAS Observer Mission to the three States the Executive Secretary related the antecedents to the decision of the Heads of State and Government to deploy the ECOWAS Observer Mission, its Reconnaissance Team and the Independent Technical Investigation Committee and the terms of reference of the Reconnaissance Team and the Investigation Committee.

9. The meeting welcomed the briefing by the Executive Secretary and went on to immediately examine the reports of the Independent Technical Investigation Commission and the Reconnaissance Team to the ECOWAS Military Observer Mission presented by Colonel Mahamane Toure of Mali and Colonel MD Dikio, Military Liaison Officer of the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS respectively.

10. The meeting proceeded to propose the technical details for the immediate deployment of the ECOMOG forces.

Mandate

11. The Commission agreed that the mandate of the proposed ECOWAS mission is the immediate deployment of a multi-national ECOMOG force along the border areas of Guinea Liberia and Sierra Leone to prevent armed incursions in those areas in order to restore security and confidence.

Mission

12. The Commission agreed that the mission concept shall be as follows:

i) Monitor the borders;
ii) Neutralise irregular armed groups;
iii) Ensure free movement of persons, goods and services;
iv) Ensure security of Refugees and displaced persons;
v) Establish a conducive environment for humanitarian assistance.

Size of Troops and Numbers contributed

13. The Commission recommended a minimum number of one thousand, five hundred (1500) troops to fulfil the mandate. One thousand, six hundred and seventy-six (1676) troops were pledged by Member States for immediate deployment as follows :

i) **Mali** : Five hundred (500) troops equipped for immediate deployment.

ii) **Nigeria**: Seven hundred and seventy-six troops (776) equipped for immediate deployment.

iii) **Niger** : Two hundred (200) troops on condition that external assistance is received for the provision of equipment that would allow them to be deployed immediately.

iv) **Senegal**: Two hundred (200) troops equipped for immediate deployment with a possibility of a larger contribution of troops where logistical assistance is provided.

Deployment Zone

14. The Commission highlighted the deployment zone as follows:

- the border junction between Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to the West, and

- the border junction between Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire to the East.

The zone was noted to be characterised by:

- extremely dense and mountainous forests, not easily accessible to vehicular traffic;

- rainy, hot and humid climate;

- non-navigable waterways due to the presence of several rapids;

- presence of irregular armed groups.

Logistics and Funding

15. The meeting agreed that funding and logistics shall come from the troop-contributing States and from external sources.

16. It however underscored the need to have uniformity amongst the complement of troops from the Member States as far as

equipment and emoluments for each soldier is concerned in order to boost troop morale.

17. The meeting urged the Executive Secretariat to intensify its efforts at soliciting for assistance from the International Community for a successful deployment and sustainance of the ECOMOG troops, in particular its rapid re-action capability.

18. The Commission however agreed that troop-contributing States shall assess their logistical requirements against what they are able to provide and forward to the Executive Secretariat latest 3rd January 2001. The shortfall of requirements shall form the basis of application for logistical assistance to be made by the Executive Secretariat to the International Community.

19. The Commission also agreed that the Operational Force Headquarters will provide a code-name for the mission.

Deployment Plan

20. The Commission agreed that the deployment plan which will include, implementation modalities shall be worked out by a meeting of staff officers of troop-contributing States to be convened on the 12th of January 2001 in Abuja.

Force Commander

21. The Force Commander shall be chosen in accordance with the procedure prescribed under the Protocol relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Peacekeeping.

Composition of the Mission

22. In addition to the troops that will be contributed, the mission shall include the following :

- 1 Special Representative of the Executive Secretary and

- 1 Special Representative of the Executive Secretary and his staff;

- The Force Commander and his headquarter's staff.

Duration

23. The Commission decided that the troops must be deployed within a period of one (1) month for a renewable period of six (6) months.

Status of the Mission

24. The Executive Secretariat shall negotiate Status of Forces Agreements with the Member States concerned.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. Under any other business, the representative of the Government of Sierra Leone requested that there should be a simultaneous deployment by UNAMSIL along the Sierra Leone borders in order to prevent rebel activities from within and outside Sierra Leone.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

26. This report was adopted.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 28 DAY OF DECEMBER, 2000

COL. PANGASSY SANGARE
Chairman

COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST

ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES

SECOND MEETING OF THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMISSION
Abuja, 27 - 28 December, 2000

VOTE OF THANKS

The Defence and Security Commission meeting in Abuja on 27th and 28th December, 2000 expresses its sincere gratitude to His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to the Government and People of Nigeria for their warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all its delegates as well as the excellent facilities made available to ensure the success of its deliberations.

DONE AT ABUJA, THIS 28 DAY OF DECEMBER, 2000.

The Commission